

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, February 8th, 2012 at 7:30 A.M.
Vernon Town Hall, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

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Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:35 A.M. by Jeff Cohen. Those present were Shaun Gately, Peter Olson, Bill McGurk, Jim Sendrak and Bill Breslau. Dan Kennedy arrived at 7:37 A.M. Absent were Tim Ackert, Vinnie Shaheen and Bruce Kellogg.

2. Public Forum

No one present to address commission

3. Approval of Minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2012

Motion was made by Peter Olson and seconded by Jim Sendrak to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Administrative Items

A. Communications and Correspondence

Shaun Gately reported that he has been in contact with Mary Holz-Clause from UCONN regarding incubator space in Vernon/Rockville. He was deferred to another individual who he will be contacting next week.

B. Other

It was reported that the new business, Dream Chasers' opened last week and that the commission will continue to visit and reach out to the new business.

5. Economic Development Status Update

A. Current Projects - Shaun Gately reported on the following projects:

- Commuter Lot at 60 Talcottville Rd.

Mr. Gately will be discussing this lot with Department of Transportation this week. The Town has requested to be considered for usage of the property.

- Coventry Farmers Market

Mr. Gately has been in touch with the individuals of this project to see if Vernon could be considered as a site for their relocation; however, he also stated that the Coventry Farmers Market is considering all their options.

- Outdoor activities

He stated that the commission needs to discuss "branding" for Vernon/Rockville. He met with Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Bruce Dinnie to discuss the utilization of the outdoor activities such as the Rail Trails.

- New businesses-

Two new businesses will be opening soon.

- Top Fugi restaurant is being reviewed for a new restaurant with a similar restaurant style as Top Fugi.

- The Tattoo Parlor will be located at 624 Talcottville and is looking to receive Zoning Board of Appeals approval.

6. New Business

A. POCD Implementation objectives

Mr. Gately reviewing the POCD Implementation objections with the commission and confirmed appointments of commission members. It was stated that the objectives be placed on each month's agenda with an update from commission members.

Members of the commission were assigned as follows:

- Facades and design of Rockville/RDA/ Investing in Rockville – Bill Breslau and Jim Sendrak
- Branding – Jeff Cohen and Bill Breslau
- Enhance Gateways – Bruce Kellogg, Dan Kennedy and Jim Sendrak
- Talcottville Mill – Tim Ackert
- Development of exit 66 and 67- Shaun Gately
- Retention and Business Development – Entire EDC Commission
- Parking Needs – Peter Olson, Bill Breslau and Jim Sendrak

There was a discussion regarding signage and mapping of the trails throughout Vernon/Rockville and Mayor Apel stated that the Department of Public Works has the capability of making various types of signs. It was suggested that someone speak to Mr. Kleinhans, Director of Public Works regarding this implementation. Ms. Ann Letendre, member of the Hockanum Linear Park committee, spoke to the commission about their rails to trails plans and looks forward to working with the Town. She also confirmed that there is a need to get information out to the public about the trails and agreed that promoting businesses along the trails was a good idea.

7. Old Business

Mr. Gately stated that the Tractor Supply Company still has a couple of hearings to go through with the Town before they can break ground, which is expected to be in April or May.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Bill Breslau and seconded by Dan Kennedy to adjourn at 8:13 A.M. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Jackle

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Recording Secretary

